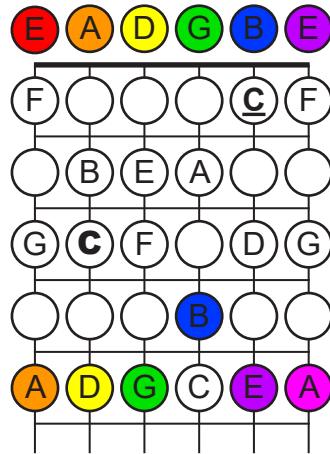


# Introduction to the Guitar 1:

## Tuning and Simple Chords



The thinnest string is the first string, and the note high E. We call it the “top” string because it is the highest sounding string on the guitar. The thickest string is the “bottom” string. It is the sixth string, and the note low E. There are two octaves difference between the top and bottom string.

<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Thick</b>					<b>Thin</b>
<b>Low</b>					<b>High</b>
<b>Bottom</b>					<b>Top</b>

The guitar is a transposing instrument by an octave. This means that we *read* middle C in the treble clef as the the note **C** in bold, but the note C which is underlined *sounds* at the pitch of true middle C.

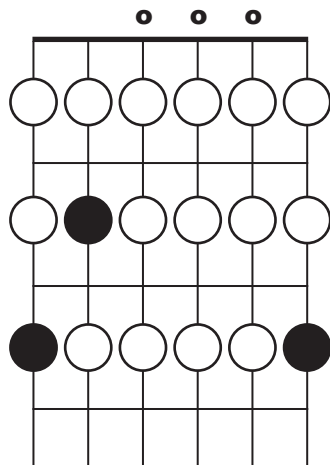
The guitar strings are tuned at an interval of one fourth higher than the previous string, except for the B string which is only a third higher than it’s previous string, G. Most of the notes in the guitar’s range will be playable in two or more different positions. E.g. The colour-coded notes are the same pitch.

We can use this to our advantage when tuning the guitar. By first tuning the low E string (red) to an external source (a piano or tuning device), we can then tune the A string (orange) to the A note in the fifth fret of the E string. Then the D string (yellow) to the D note in the fifth fret of the A string. Then the G string (green) to the G note in the fifth fret of the D string. Then the B string (blue) to the B note in the fourth fret of the G string. Then finally the high E string (purple) is tuned to the E note in the fifth fret of the B string.

We can double check our tuning by ear by playing some simple major chords and listening for their tonality. Do these chords sound in tune?

G Major

**G**



E Major

**E**

